"PROBLEMS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH IN COLLEGES OF RURAL AREA OF MARATHWADA"

SYNOPSIS

SUBMITTED TO

SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY
FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE STUDY OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ART'S(ENGLISH)

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introduction

Every educational system has certain objectives which aim at bringing about desirable changes in students. In order to bring about those changes, the colleges arrange learning experience. The success of learning can be judged only in terms of the changes brought about by this experience. This is a learning experience and evaluation. Due to the globalization in all the fields, it necessitates the learning of a language which is international. Undoubtedly, English has become a world language. More than two centuries, India has been directly and indirectly had influence of the language , English on all the fields, such as Education, Medical Science, etc. Text materials relating to the subjects of Science, Engineering and Technology as also Medicine are available only in English. Moreover, all over India, there is no single language to unite the whole country. Since, in India, several languages are spoken and also one set of people are reluctant to learn one common Indian language, we have to borrow a new non-Indian language.

Considering the above facts, learning English, the universal language, as a Second Language, becomes inseparable branch as also unavoidable in Indian education system.

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English is being treated as a world language because of its vast presence all over the world. At this juncture, learning English gains currency. Majority of Indian students, particularly from rural pockets consider this seven-letter word as a magical and a mystical word. The moment they hear something in English they start feel uneasiness. As a result of this, teachers who handle English classes face insurmountable difficulties. Students too find it difficult to listen and to understand the English language. What are the reasons for this? What are the remedial measures to be taken to alleviate these problems? This research will critically evaluates the problems faced by students in the language classroom when they enter into college environment and appropriate and adequate remedial measures will find out through this research for the successful rectification of these problems too.

Problems in learning:

Twelve years of school study do not make students mastery over

English. Why this happen? While they are in schools English is not taught properly. As majority of the students are hailed from rural areas, bilingual method is adopted in language classes. This method helps only to slow learners to some extent. Moreover, this act reduces the real learning process as a whole. If a student does not understand anything in English, he/she asks for explanation in L1 i.e.

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in his/her mother tongue. Consequently, the English teacher is in a state to adopt bilingual method. In schools, students are being taught that English is an international language. To learn this language requires constant practice and patience. The kind of feeling that prevails among students is that it is not possible to achieve fluency or mastery over English language. This kind of tendency prevents students from learning new languages like English. Since most of the students are first generation learners, how can a student get acquainted with the foreign language with regard to English without any guidance from their parents and others? Even though students are studying English, they are not able to produce even a single sentence without any grammatical error in English. The reason stated for this is that they study subjects from the examination point of view only. This is true with English language too.

A student grows from a small child to a grown up when he/she completes higher secondary examinations. After this phase, a student enters into college life. This period is considered as a transition period. The system followed in colleges is different from that of schools. Moreover, students have their own whims and fancies about college life because of the tremendous influence of mass-medias on them. These media project a false perception about colleges and students. On seeing such things in movies, students take it for granted. As a result of this, they have formed an image for a college and want to act upon those images.

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During twelve years of school life students learn consistency, discipline, determination, order and obedience. The moment he/she enters into college life, he thinks as if he/she got freedom. He/she forgets good things, which he learnt through twelve years of rigorous training in school. The general thinking about college among student community is that college is very liberal in dealing with the students. No one cares for anything. They do not have responsibilities at all. Whatever they think they can implement them. Attending class is not compulsory. Keeping these views in mind they find it difficult in sitting in classrooms and listening to the lessons being taught to them. All their views about a college are shattered into pieces the moment when a teacher enters in a classroom and begins to teach and impose certain restrictions on them.

At this juncture, severe problems start with the slow-learners. These students too passed in the higher secondary examinations. For them, sitting and listening a language class is something an uphill task, while others listen the class with rapt attention. There are two problems which a language teacher faces at this critical point of time. First, a teacher has to manage all the students in a classroom. If any of the students create problems it is an embarrassing situation for him/her. Second, the teacher identifies the students who create problems. It is not advisable to punish such boys in front of others. This is so because students will be affected psychologically. Sometimes students may turn against teachers. Simultaneously, they

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begin to see a teacher as his adversary. At the same time, to correct them inside the classroom will reduce the teaching time. There is also a danger of deviation from the teaching of subject too.

The hyperbolic portrayal of students in colleges in movies which is contrary to what is actually going on in colleges. The very day a student enters in a college, he associates himself with a student of college as shown in movies. The problem arises at the initial stage itself with such students.

SPECIFIC TITLE

The specific title of my proposed research work is *"PROBLEMS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH IN COLLEGES OF RURAL AREA OF MARATHWADA"*

PERIOD OF REFERENCE

For the proposed research work the period of reference will be of five years i. e. from 2015 to 2020.

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The words Goal and Objective are often confused with each other. They both describe things that a person may want to achieve or attain but in relative terms may mean different things. Both are desired outcomes of work done by a person but what sets them apart is the time frame, attributes they're set for and the effect they inflict. Goals is the purpose toward which an endeavor is directed while objective is something that one's efforts or actions are intended to attain or accomplish; purpose; target. Goal is long term while objective is short term which can be achieved within limited period of time.

The main aim behind conducting this research is to understand the problems of teaching and learning English in colleges of rural area of Marathwada.

On the basis of the main aim set, the objectives of this research are being stated as follows.

1) To study the problems of lecturers who are teaching English in colleges of rural areas of Marathwada.
2) To analyse root cause of learning English in colleges of rural area in Marathwada.
3) To study the present methods of teaching English language or English literature in colleges of rural area.

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4) To assess attitude of students and parents of rural area towards English learning.
5) To analyse hindrances of learning in English in colleges of rural area.
6) To know the basic reasons of lack of oral and written English communication skill in colleges of rural areas.
7) To suggest ways and means to create interest in learning English in colleges of rural areas.

SCOPE OF THE TITLE

This research is delimited to the activities of one region of Marathwada; this is consequent to the time constraint on the duration of the research, so that researcher can fully investigate the problem area. Therefore, the focus was solely on college students of rural areas in Marathwada, as the case study for the research.

No other comparison has been made with urban areas in the same region and rural areas from other region. One particular region i.e. rural area of Marathwada has been selected to investigate the problem.

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The result of this research cannot be generalized to other areas in Maharashtra because this is a single case study on college students of rural areas in Marathwada.

REASON FOR SELECTING THE PROBLEM

English is international language and used globally. So many people in metropolitan cities of India are using English language for communication and using English is common for them. Mostly in southern part of India English is used as second language after mother tongue. In most corporate interviews questions are asked in English and expected to get answers in English too. Nowadays, English is becoming very important language and mastery over it is important.

Upcoming youth without English will not get what they want. It will become his/her weakness. It is new trend to communicate in English in youth of urban area of Marathwada like Aurangabad, Nanded, Jalana etc. and it is impact of their college environment, so they becoming success to get any type of job easily. But due to lack of fluency in English in youth of rural area of same region fails to get success in their life and that lead them to frustration.

So to throw light on that, preparatory ground is selected to study the basic problems of teaching and learning English in colleges of rural area of Marathwada which can be model for other rural areas

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of Maharashtra also.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY:

Many new experiments are carried out to improve English of college students of rural areas. Faculty development programs are also arranged for college lecturers of rural areas. What is impact of such remedies taken to improve English communication skill of college students of rural areas? and how much? Present information is not sufficient to answer the question and so this research is necessary.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION

1. This research will clearly throw light on how really English language plays role in colleges of rural area.
2. This research will throw light on what college student of rural areas thinks about English language.
3. It will show that what impact of remedies and teaching induction methods will create on college students of rural areas.
4. It will give feedback to the colleges and Universities for making necessary changes in syllabus and in teaching methods.

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5. It will throw light on attitude of parents and college students of rural areas towards English language.

HYPOTHESIS

A hypothesis is a specific statement of prediction. It describes in concrete (rather than theoretical) terms what we expect will happen in our study. Not all studies have hypotheses. Sometimes a study is designed to be exploratory. There is no formal hypothesis, and perhaps the purpose of the study is to explore some area more thoroughly in order to develop some specific hypothesis or prediction that can be tested in future research. A single study may have one or many hypotheses.

According to Caffey, “a hypothesis is an attempt at explanation: a provisional supposition made in order to explain scientifically some facts or phenomenon” and according to Cohen and Nagal, “A hypothesis directs our search for the order”. It is not essential for a hypothesis to be necessarily true. In fact hypothesis is not a claim of truth. Hypothesis is a bridge in the process of inquiry or search which brings with its some felt difficulty or problem and ends without the resolutions of the problem.”

The study aims at testing the following hypothesis.

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1) There is negative attitude towards English in the mind of college students of rural area because of slow or negative performance in English at school level.
2) Traditional methods of teaching in English in schools and colleges of rural areas are hindrances.
3) Lecturers who teach English in colleges of rural area are untrained so they cannot teach in right spirit.
4) Lecturers of colleges in rural areas do not take much interest in teaching and so students also not take interest.
5) Due to negative attitude of parents and due to mother tongue used in family communication, English is not taken seriously by the college students of rural area.
6) Basic English foundation of college students of rural area in Marathwada is weak because of low quality input received in school.
7) College students of rural area are lack in English because they do not think in English.
8) There is vast difference in family communication language and language in college environment. So college students lack interest or they become indifferent.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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Research in common parlance refers to a search for knowledge. Once can also define research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. In fact, research is an art of scientific investigation. The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English lays down the meaning of research as "*a careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge*." Redman and Mory define research as a "*systematized effort to gain new knowledge*."

The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered as yet.

Data Collection:

There are several ways of collecting the appropriate data which differ considerably in context of money costs, time and other resources at the disposal of the researcher.

Primary data: It can be collected either through experiment or

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through survey. If the researcher conducts an experiment, he observes some quantitative measurements, or the data, with the help of which he examines the truth contained in his hypothesis. But in the case of a survey, data can be
collected by any one or more of the following ways:

(i) *By observation:* This method implies the collection of information by way of investigator's own observation, without interviewing the respondents..

(ii) *Through personal interview:* The investigator follows a rigid procedure and seeks answers to a set of pre-conceived questions through personal interviews

(iii) *Through telephone interviews:* This method of collecting information involves contacting the respondents on telephone itself.

(iv) *By mailing of questionnaires:* The researcher and the respondents do come in contact with each other if this method of survey is adopted. Questionnaires are mailed to the respondents with a request to return after completing the same.

(v) *Through schedules:* Under this method the enumerators are appointed and given training. They are provided with schedules containing relevant questions. These enumerators go to respondents with these schedules. Data are collected by filling up the schedules by enumerators on the basis of replies given by respondents.

The researcher should select one of these methods of collecting the data taking into consideration the nature of

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investigation, objective and scope of the inquiry, financial resources, available time and the desired degree of accuracy.

Secondary data: It is the data that have been already collected by and readily available from other sources like news papers, books, magazines as well as from websites. Such data are cheaper, economical, saves time, efforts and expenses. It helps to make primary data collection more specific since with the help of secondary data, we are able to make out what are the gaps and deficiencies and what additional information needs to be collected. Secondary data helps to improve the understanding of the problem and more quickly obtainable than the primary data and also may be available when primary data can not be obtained at all

Mainly the proposed research will be based on the collection of primary data and statistical treatment and analysis the same. The study as stated above will be confined to college students in rural areas of Marathwada. 40 colleges will be selected on the basis of the Area or Cluster sampling.

The primary data will be collected from interviews of 1000 college students and 80 lecturers of B.A. in rural areas.

The Secondary data related to the topic will be obtained from various sources available in the form of published materials like news papers, books, magazines as well as from websites. Collected data will be processed and analyzed by using relevant statistical tools.

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Size of Sample

40 colleges will be selected for data collection. Mainly the data of the proposed study will be collected from 1000 Students of English specialization from B.A. course and 80 lecturers of colleges who teach English literature to B.A. course in rural area of Marathwada.

Sr No	Area of Colleges	Percentage
1	Aurangabad District	20
2	Nanded District	20
3	Parbhani District	10
4	Hingoli District	10
5	Latur District	10
6	Jalana District	10
7	Usmanabad District	10
8	Beed District	10

THE PLAN OF WORK

To be honest the layout of the research work has already been laid initiated, this was made possible with the help of available books, Reports, journals, websites and my research guide.

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The plan of work will be as under:

1) A pilot questionnaire will be prepared and on that basis a pilot survey will be conducted. After conducting a pilot survey a final comprehensive questionnaire will be prepared.

2) A comprehensive questionnaire will get filled in form through personal contacts from 40 colleges including 80 lecturers and 1000 students of BA in rural areas of Marathwada.

3) Secondary data related to the topic will be obtained from various sources available in the form of published materials, the concerned ministry documents, and all other information that are available through various websites.

TIME SCHEDULE OF THE PROPOSED STUDY

Sr. No.	Activity	Time required

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		in months.
1.	Library work and collection of secondary data	6
2.	Preparation of pilot questionnaire	1
3.	Conduction of pilot survey	2
4.	Preparation of final questionnaire	1
5.	Filling of final questionnaire and conduction of personal interview	4
6.	Analysis and tabulation of data	4
7.	Writing rough project	2
8.	Correction and updating	1
9.	Preparation and Submission of final project.	3

The total proposed time is of two years.

Scheme and Structure of Research Study

It is shown as under

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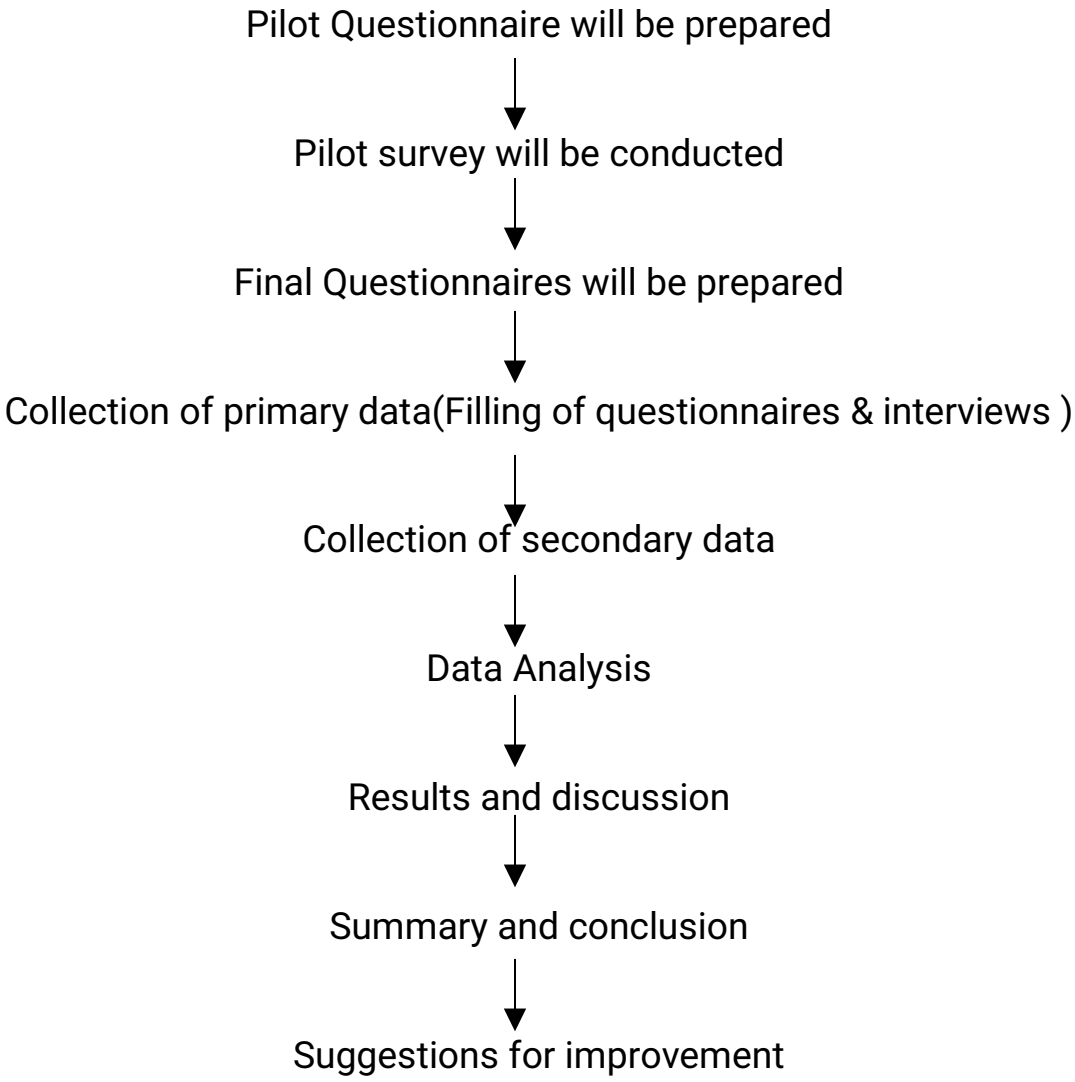
Pilot Questionnaire will be prepared
Pilot survey will be conducted
Final Questionnaires will be prepared
Collection of primary data(Filling of questionnaires & interviews)
Collection of secondary data
Data Analysis
Results and discussion
Summary and conclusion
Suggestions for improvement

CHAPTER SCHEME

Following chapter scheme is proposed for the research study.

1. INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Introduction

1.2 Need of the subject

1.3 Importance of the study

1.4 Reason for selecting study

1.5 Scope of the subject

1.6 Rationale of the study

1.7 Aims and objectives of study

1.8 Hypothesis

1.9 Research methodology

2. ABOUT MARATHWADA
3. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

3.1 Observation

3.2 Classification

3.3 Analysis/Interpretation of data

3.4 Generalization

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

4.2 Suggestions and recommendation

APPENDIX

- Bibliography/References
- Annexure/Questionnaire

<u>RELEVANT BIBLIOGRAPHY</u>

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Signature of the Supervisor/Guide Signature of the applicant

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